

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 6, 7 and 10 have been amended. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claims 6-13 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner notes that claims 6 and 8-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their respective base and any intervening claims. The Examiner also notes that claims 13 is allowed.

Claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5. Accordingly, claim 5 has been cancelled. Therefore, amended independent claim 6 is submitted to be allowable.

Claims 8-12 depend from claim 6 and, thus, claims 8-12 are also submitted to be allowable.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 5 AND 7 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER LAYER ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,529,463) IN VIEW OF TALONN (U.S. PATENT NO. 4,857,056)

As stated above, claim 5 is cancelled herein, and its recitations are included in amended claim 6. As noted by the Examiner, claim 6, as amended, is allowable.

Dependent claim 7 is amended herein to depend from amended independent claim 6. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 patentably distinguishes over the prior art and is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending

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claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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